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GLTPA Testimony for SB 396 (S-5) Draft 1 Presented by Denny Olson

The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association supports the provisions in SB 396 making all County Roads designated routes which allow the maximum lengths as allowed in MCLA 257.719, maximum widths as allowed in MCLA 257.717, and maximum weights as specified in MCLA 257.722 including the bridge formula.

The Counties of Marquette and Dickenson adopted this policy beginning in the late 90's and early 2000's and have had no negative impacts because of this policy. It is GLTPA's hope having a state-wide policy will provide consistency for truck drivers, assist with enforcement of weight restrictions and add no additional burden to road maintenance costs.

GLTPA supports the provision in SB 396 allowing pneumatic tired forestry equipment on a public road for moving from one harvest site to another if the vehicle is equipped with a slow-moving vehicle sign as described in section 688 and a flashing, rotating or oscillating Amber light. The pneumatic tired forestry equipment is to be unladen except that it may carry with it attachments used in its daily operations such as tire chains, tracks, and road drags. Forestry equipment such as harvesters and forwarders are identical in weight, and for the most part weight distribution per axle, as are loaders and graders used by the county. Forestry equipment is typically equipped with high flotation tires having less ground pressure per square inch of tire. When 396 becomes law and no permits are required the machine operator and owner would then assume full responsibility in the unfortunate situation an accident would occur.

GLTPA also supports use of unpaved roads bonded by the user during spring thaw, and that even though a Road Commission is limited to \$2,000 for said bond, the bonding agreement used by most counties clearly states the permit holder is responsible for the restoration and repair of the road regardless of the bonded amount.

Submitted by Denny Olson on behalf of
Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association